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Interesting Persons

News Management Sharply Criticized

By JOHN E. HOPKINS

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VIRGINIA BEACH — Edward Hunter, the man who made "brainwashing" a household word, says the Kennedy administration is turning America into a dictatorship.

Hunter, an author, foreign correspondent and frequent governmental consultant, vacationed here a few days recently.

Staying at the Idlewilde Inn and Motel, he ranted from nearly everything but his criticism of the Kennedy administration and warnings of the Communist menace.

He sharply criticized management of the news by the administration. "With the best will in the world a government cannot manage news without turning that government into a dictatorship. That is what is happening (here) today," he said.

Information given members of congress also is managed, Hunter charged.

"A senator or representative cannot draw up a bill or vote correctly if he is given misinformation by the administration," he said.

Hunter was one of many newsmen covering the Korean flareup. In a series of stories he wrote he used the word "brainwashing." Newsmen generally had avoided using the word then because of its terrifying connotation. Hunter used it and it became well known.

Brainwashing consists first of softening up and then indoctrination, he added.

"The U.S. is now in the process of being softened up for surrender . . . I am now seeing the U.S. as a nation being put under the same pres-



EDWARD HUNTER

sures the young American prisoner was put under in (Korean War) Prisoner-of-War camps."

Hunter was born in New York State in 1902 but has spent most of his life abroad.

Aside from his journalistic endeavors he has been a consultant for a number of government agencies. "If I were the reporter I might put, 'Al-

though Hunter didn't say so, this would include the Central Intelligence Agency," he said smiling.

"You can't have a free society without an honest and objective press," he said. "I wanted to be a reporter for that purpose."

Hunter didn't believe the colleges of his time offered what he wanted to study, "so I refused to go to college and educated myself."

He started his career on the Newark Ledger and the joined the Chicago Tribune in Paris. Later he became news editor of the Japan Advertiser in Japan.

A year later he went to China and took over the Hankow Herald from the Communists. This was around 1927. Then it was on to Peking and in 1931 he joined the Hearst newspapers syndicate.

He was all over Europe until shortly before World War II when he joined the foreign news desk of the New York Post.

When the war came he went into the Office of Special Services and was in China, Burma and India as a propaganda specialist.

More journalistic work followed and the past few years he has been consultant to various government agencies.

Lately he's been doing research and writing.